

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINSTON CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL
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CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS *CHICAGO*

Winston Churchill High School will transport audiences back to a time when crime was a form of entertainment in a rare opportunity to perform a show that is still running on Broadway. After seeking the rights to the musical *Chicago* for five years they finally became available to Mrs. Jessica Speck, Drama Director at Winston Churchill High School, in the spring of 2009 and it will be on the Churchill stage mid November. Mrs. Speck persisted for many years to get the rights to *Chicago* because, in her words, “I truly love the show and thought if we could do something that is still running on Broadway our audiences would have a unique opportunity to compare for themselves just how much our student talent measures up to the best!” Mrs. Speck adds, “I have been wanting to do *Chicago* because in addition to having truly beloved music, I think it gives a greater number of opportunities for female high school actresses to truly take the stage and I think high school students—in fact, all modern audiences—relate to and understand the tabloid culture and the desire to be ‘famous’”.

Churchill has proven itself a frontrunner in the theatre community racking up 12 CAPPIE nominations in the last three years and winning 5 awards (including best female vocalist Shelby Sykes and best band for the 2008 production of *RENT*). *Chicago* will feature Ashley Austin as Velma Kelly, Alexandra Levenson as Roxie Hart,

Shelby Sykes as Matron Mama Morton, Steven Rigaux as Billy Flynn, Josh Simon as Amos Hart, Peter Karp as Mary Sunshine, Becca Murphy as Liz, Molly Kiniry as Annie, Genny Austin as June, Bluma Millman as Hunyak, Laura Butvinik as Mona and Tanaquil Marquez as Go-to-Hell Kitty along with an enormously talented ensemble of forty-four students. Nancy Newell is choreographing Lead Dancers Thalia Ertman, Ryan Kanfer, Josh Kaufmann, and Ariana Nasser. A jazz ensemble comprised of 23 highly accomplished student musicians will play on stage evoking the atmosphere of the speak-easies of the windy city conducted by instrumental music director Mr. Kristofer Sanz. The senior musicians include Katie Kennedy, Rebecca Stackhouse, Thomas Kim, Chloe Taylor on the clarinet; Scott Schuler on the trumpet; Elizabeth Leung, Allison Duh, Monica Cho, and Josh Coyne on the violin; York Lu on the keyboard and Amin Stephenson on the banjo.

Under the direction of Jessica Speck, the musical leadership of Keith Tittermary and dance choreography by Nancy Newell, *Chicago* will be performed November 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7:30pm in the Gertrude Bish Auditorium at Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac, MD. Tickets for the show cost \$12 or \$10, depending on seat location and may be purchased in advance on line through a link at www.wchs-drama.org. This show is recommended for ages middle school and up due to mature themes. Parents of young children are strongly cautioned. It will be an event not to miss!